(a) whether the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council has urged the Union Government to withdraw amendments to the quota policy announced in December, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the world textile market is showing recessionary tendencies; and

(d) if so how it is likely to affect the textile export trade of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). In December 1991, the Government had amended certain provisions of Textile Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for 1992 and 1993. One of the amendments stipulated that when the same exporter is exporting under Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) and Contract Reservation Entitlement (CRE) and First Come First Served (FCFS) Systems also, the price quoted by the applicants for allocation under CRE and FCFS Systems shall not differ by more than 10% with reference to the price quoted by him under PPE System.

This amendment was introduced with a view to minimise the scope for cornering quotas under CRE and FCFS Systems by quoting artificially high prices and making adjustments in the prices quoted under Past Performance Entitlement System.

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council through its letter dated 20th December, 91 requested withdrawal of the amendment. Subsequently through their letter dated 30th December, 1991 they informed the Government that the proposal is acceptable to them but only sought deferment of the date from which the amendment will be given effect to so that the modalities of implementation may be worked out.

(c) and (d). Government have received reports regarding recessionary trends in some importing countries, However the targets for the current year are expected to be achieved.

Indo–US Co–operation in the Field of Defence

836. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:
PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level US military delegation visited India recently;

(b) if so, whether new vistas in Indo–US ties were touched upon during discussion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the agreement arrived at for defence co–operation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In keeping with the Government's policy of establishing co–operation in the Defence Sector with friendly foreign

countries, discussions were held with the visiting US military delegations for furthering bilateral Defence relations with the USA in the field of training, exchange of visits and discussions in matters of mutual concern.

Import of Raw Silk and Silk Yarn

837. SHRI ANBARASU ERA:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between demand and supply of domestic silk yarn in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether raw silk and silk yarn are likely to be imported;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the countries from which these are to be imported; and

(e) the quantity proposed to be imported and the time by which it is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (e). Due to outbreak of pebrine disease in the rearing areas of major silk producing States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu, there was a decline in the arrivals of cocoons in the cocoon markets which ultimately affected the availability as well as prices of raw silk in the country. The Central Silk Board and the concerned State Government have already initiated various measures for control of the disease.

In order to stabilize the prices of raw silk and to provide raw silk to the weavers at reasonable rates, the Government of India has permitted import of 200 metric tonnes of raw silk by the Central Silk Board and designated agencies. These organisations have the choice to import silk from any source depending on their requirements. However, it is likely that most of the imports will be from China.

The organisations are taking steps to import silk as quickly as possible.

Coffee Prices in International Market

838. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Indian coffee in the international market has been pagged down to the selling price of 1951;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the 'purchase tax' levied by the Government of Karnataka has compelled many coffee growers in the state to divert from coffee cultivation to other cash crops; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). There has been no artificial pegging down of the price of Indian Coffee in the international market. However, as a result of suspension of quotas under the International Coffee Agreement with effect from 4th July, 1989, the supply in